

Table 3-13: Recreational Visitation for Denali National Park and Preserve, 1985-2001.

Year	Recreational Visits <sup>1</sup>	Percent Change	Overnight Stays <sup>2</sup>				Total Overnight Stays
			Concessioner Lodging	NPS Campgrounds	NPS Group Campground	NPS Backcountry	
1985	436,545	-	28,020	67,963	3,001	26,029	125,013
1986	529,749	21.4%	29,752	67,071	2,693	27,999	127,515
1987	575,013	8.5%	23,780	65,649	2,086	28,962	120,477
1988	592,431	3.0%	22,101	77,500	1,191	29,460	130,252
1989	543,640	8.2%	23,429	63,789	1,637	34,113	122,968
1990	546,693	0.6%	24,459	56,329	1,534	35,918	118,240
1991	558,870	2.2%	24,311	62,539	2,683	29,798	119,331
1992	503,674	9.9%	27,452	73,066	2,831	38,262	141,611
1993	505,565	0.4%	25,683	63,957	2,034	33,010	124,684
1994	490,311	3.0%	23,942	63,082	2,592	41,455	131,071
1995	544,209	11.0%	24,459	65,105	1,807	39,500	130,871
1996	341,385		23,586	59,871	2,240	37,188	122,885
1997	354,278	4.1	22,223	65,999	2,019	39,224	129,465
1998	372,519	5.1	18,330	64,438	962	37,504	121,234
1999	386,867	4.7	19,912	66,722	1,349	35,826	123,809
2000	363,983	-5.9	19,095	67,431	1,883	32,579	120,988
2001	360,192	-1.0	19,106	42,830	1,457	35,306	98,699
Annual Average Rate of Growth (compounded)							
1985-95	2.2%	na	1.3%	0.4%	4.9%	4.3%	0.4%
1990-95	0.1%	na	0%	2.9%	3.3%	1.9%	2.1%
1996-00	1.1%	na	-4.1%	2.4%	-3.4%	-2.6%	0.2%

Note: na = not applicable

1 Number of people entering the park and preserve during any part of the day

2 Person-nights

Source: NPS 1997.

difficult to estimate because there are multiple points of access. Backcountry use permits are not required for the southern area except for climbers on Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker. Foot access to lands of the park, although possible, is extremely limited and difficult because of the distance from roads to the park and preserve boundary. Private aircraft operate along the south side on scenic flightseeing trips, operating primarily out of Talkeetna and secondarily out of the park entrance area during summer. The primary access for visitors to the south side of the Alaska Range is by commercial air taxi and flightseeing airplanes (see section on Transportation and Access below). A registration system was implemented over the past several years to count users on the south side.

The number of non-recreational visits reported by the National Park Service is large because it includes the high volume of through traffic on the 7-mile section of the Parks Highway that runs through the easternmost portion of the park. Because the highway is the most direct route between Anchorage and Fairbanks, non-recreational visits are artificially high (see Table 3-12 above).

Denali National Park and Preserve is one of the premier visitor attractions in Alaska. Package tours using airplanes, cruise ships, the Alaska Railroad, and motor coaches along with guaranteed accommodations have become increasingly popular with the visiting public. These tours, operated by companies such as Holland America and Princess, provide travel, meals, accommodations, and sightseeing all in one package. The visitors get access to a large variety of attractions in Alaska, and the package tour company conveniently takes care of all their needs. Increasing numbers of independent travelers are also significant in both the Denali and the Alaska-wide visitor profile. Tourism growth has slowed in recent years, and the number of recreational visitors to Denali has even declined since its peak in 1999. However, it is expected, given the general growth of tourism worldwide, that growth in Alaska's tourism industry will resume, and along with it, growth in visitation to Denali National Park.

Overnight use of Denali National Park is documented in Table 3-13 (Recreational Visitation for Denali National Park and Preserve, 1985-2001). An overnight stay is one visitor spending one night in the park for recreational purposes and is counted separately from a recreational visit.